

# RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NURSES WEEK MAY 6-12, 2011

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the contributions of our Nation's nurses and to thank them for their service to patients across this Nation. Nurses are among the largest group of health professionals and are on the front lines of our healthcare delivery system. Each day people with different health needs are served by legions of educated, qualified, and professional nurses.

Our Nation's nurses help to ensure that Americans receive quality health care and that our Nation's public health infrastructure remains strong. I recently had the opportunity to meet with nurses who visited our Nation's capital through the Nurses in Washington Internship Program. This group is made up of a coalition of nursing organizations united to promote a strong voice in advocating for the nursing community.

In closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the nurses in my home State of Ohio and across the country for their service to the American public.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### RECOGNIZING THE CENTRAL ARKANSAS VETERANS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I honor the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System, CAVHS, of Little Rock, AR. This health care provider is the recipient of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs' Robert W. Carey Performance Excellence Award, recognizing VA organizations for the implementation of management practices that produce the highest levels of performance and service to our Nation's veterans.

This well-deserved honor recognizes the outstanding service this facility provides to Arkansas veterans. CAVHS has an outstanding record of success throughout its rich 90-year history. In recent years, CAVHS has earned Robert W. Casey Awards in 2009 and 2010 in addition to 2011.

This health care delivery system includes a 2-campus medical center with 280 operating hospital beds, a 152-bed nursing home care unit, and a 119-bed domiciliary. CAVHS offers a variety of inpatient and outpatient health care amenities, spanning from disease prevention, primary care, extended rehabilitative care, and complex surgical procedures. It serves as an educational facility for more than 1,500 students and residents enrolled in more than 65 educational programs.

I am proud of the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System for its dedication to providing quality care to Arkansas veterans and encourage continued efforts and services to these brave men and women. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating

this facility for the outstanding work it does and will continue to do to ensure the well-being of our veteran community.●

### RECOGNIZING THE VETERANS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM OF THE OZARKS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I honor the Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks, VHOS, in Fayetteville, AR. This health care provider is the recipient of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert W. Carey Trophy Award, the highest recognition for quality achievement and service to our Nation's veterans. Each year, this award is presented to no more than two of the VA's highest performing organizations for quality achievement.

This well-deserved honor recognizes the exemplary quality of service it is providing to Arkansas veterans. The VHOS has an outstanding track record, winning Robert W. Carey Awards in 2010, 2009, and 2008.

Founded in 1935, the VHOS serves veterans in 23 counties in northwest Arkansas, southwest Missouri, and eastern Oklahoma. In addition to the Fayetteville location, six communities in the region have community based outpatient clinics.

Services at the VHOS include primary care, mental health care, specialty care, women's clinic, pharmacy, social work, surgery, and nutrition services. They are a 72-bed level 2 facility and have a large team of caregivers who can assist veterans whether they are hospitalized, living at home, or transitioning between the two. To accomplish the Veterans Affairs goals of integrity, commitment, advocacy, respect, and excellence, the VHOS works to honor veterans with high-quality health care.

I am proud of the Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks and its commitment to providing exceptional care to our veterans and encourage continued efforts to improve the health and services offered to these brave men and women. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating this facility for the outstanding work it does to care for our veterans who have sacrificed so much for this Nation.●

### TRIBUTE TO MR. JERRY LOLLEY

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I recognize the public service of a veterans service officer from South Dakota who is retiring after nearly 40 years of dedicated military and public service to veterans and their families.

Jerry Lolley has served as Meade County veterans service officer since 1992. Jerry's wife Harriet, known as "Granny," and children Grant and Lara have always supported Jerry while he has provided tireless service to thousands of veterans seeking assistance with benefit claims, medals requests, records searches, payment

issues, and health care issues. He has always been a valuable source of needed information for the families of veterans as well.

Military service and an understanding of the needs and issues of our military service personnel and veterans is deeply rooted with Jerry. After spending 2 years at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, he served in the U.S. Air Force from 1968 to 1988 and retired as an E-7, providing dedicated service as an aircraft mechanic. His father served in General Patton's Army in World War II.

But Jerry's service extends also to the numerous issues impacting veterans and their families. He has been a constant advocate for veterans on Federal, State, and local issues of importance. He monitors Federal legislative issues and has shared valuable insight with me and my staff regarding potential impacts of legislation or VA agency decisions. He has always put the veteran first and foremost in his efforts, especially when it comes to improving health care resources, access, and level of care for veterans. He has also provided valuable insight on educational, spousal, dependent, and burial benefits.

During the Persian Gulf war, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom, Jerry has been diligent in providing returning soldiers with important information about deadlines involving access to health care services, assisting soldiers with applications for various benefits, and providing general information to assist in their return home.

My staff and I have always valued Jerry's advocacy for veterans. He is rarely short on opinions on important matters and is quick to offer well-targeted questions toward agency officials to learn the basis for decisions and actions on various issues and even takes great care to request background information to verify or dispel the occasional rumor or misconception that may surface within the veterans community. His steadfast dedication to veterans has made him a great public servant and his service will be greatly missed.

I wish Jerry and his family all the best in his retirement, and it is my hope that he can find other options to continue serving veterans in the future. I congratulate him on his military service and his great public service career.●

### RECOGNIZING CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE

• Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and congratulate St. Louis-based Concordia Publishing House on their 2011 Baldrige Award and overall commitment to excellence.

Founded in 1869, Concordia Publishing House, CPH, serves as the publishing arm of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, LCMS, and provides